

community what it meant, in the words of Gandhi, to be the change we want to see in the world. Countless people, especially women in our State, credit her for the opportunities and inspiration she provided that helped them reach their potential.

She was an extraordinary mentor, motivator, and mother. She was tireless and tenacious. She never lost her zeal to make the world a better place. Throughout her life, Midge Miller exemplified public service, social responsibility, goodness, and grace. For all those reasons and many more, I am honored to have known Midge Miller and send my heartfelt condolences to her family.●

● Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, it is with great sadness that I remember a good friend, a great Wisconsin progressive, Midge Miller, who recently passed away at age 86.

Midge was famous for many things, including her vital work on Eugene McCarthy's Presidential campaign, her efforts to help found the National Women's Political Caucus and the Madison Institute, and her service on the Democratic National Committee, in addition to her many years of service representing the west side of Madison in the Wisconsin State Assembly. Above all, though, Midge was known for who she was rather than the many things she accomplished. She was, very simply, a force of nature. Midge was a dynamo who was always striving to do more and to get those around her to do the same. That was why she was loved by so many and why she will be so greatly missed.

I was proud to serve with Midge in the State legislature, where she was a legendary figure. She was a true reformer, a role model, and a treasured colleague. When I arrived in the State Senate as a young legislator, Midge was always complimentary and supportive, which meant a great deal to me. At the same time, in true Midge fashion, she never failed to give me either additional work or a reading assignment. It was that determination to keep working for change, and to make sure that the rest of us were working for change alongside her, that truly made Midge one of a kind.

Midge was an outstanding representative for the people she served. In the State assembly, she used the skills she had honed from her work on the McCarthy campaign, advancing women's rights, and as a leader in the Democratic Party, to great effect. She was a terrific ally, a formidable opponent, and an unfailing advocate for the people she represented. And, in the end, she didn't just represent the west side of Madison, she represented all who care about economic and social justice, and the countless other causes she championed.

As I make this tribute to Midge, I am particularly proud of the way she represented what is best about our State's progressive tradition. She was absolutely committed to making democ-

racy work for everyday people, people who deserve a decent wage, safe working conditions and good health care, and who deserve to be treated equally, no matter their gender, their religion, or the color of their skin. Her values were the progressive values that have helped to strengthen our State, and the Nation, for more than a century.

Like so many Wisconsinites, my thoughts are with Midge's wonderful family, as people across the State and across the country mourn her loss. We are so fortunate that Midge devoted her tremendous energy, devotion and skill to bettering all of our lives. I am grateful to have known Midge Miller, and I am honored to pay tribute to her today.●

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

S. 895. A bill to prevent mortgage foreclosures and enhance mortgage credit availability.

S. 896. A bill to prevent mortgage foreclosures and enhance mortgage credit availability.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. DODD (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 895. A bill to prevent mortgage foreclosures and enhance mortgage credit availability; read the first time.

By Mr. DODD (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 896. A bill to prevent mortgage foreclosures and enhance mortgage credit availability; read the first time.

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 897. A bill to limit Federal spending to 20 percent of GDP; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. SANDERS:

S. 898. A bill to amend the Social Security Act to provide grants and flexibility through demonstration projects for States to provide universal, comprehensive, cost-effective systems of health care coverage, with simplified administration; to the Committee on Finance.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 384

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 384, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2010 through 2014 to provide assistance to foreign countries to promote food security, to stimulate rural economies, and to improve emergency response to food crises, to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, and for other purposes.

S. 437

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 437, a bill to amend the Inter-

nal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow the deduction of attorney-advanced expenses and court costs in contingency fee cases.

S. 455

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 455, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition of 5 United States Army Five-Star Generals, George Marshall, Douglas MacArthur, Dwight Eisenhower, Henry "Hap" Arnold, and Omar Bradley, alumni of the United States Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, to coincide with the celebration of the 132nd Anniversary of the founding of the United States Army Command and General Staff College.

S. 488

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 488, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require group and individual health insurance coverage and group health plans to provide coverage for individuals participating in approved cancer clinical trials.

S. 491

At the request of Mr. WEBB, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 491, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow Federal civilian and military retirees to pay health insurance premiums on a pretax basis and to allow a deduction for TRICARE supplemental premiums.

S. 553

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 553, a bill to revise the authorized route of the North Country National Scenic Trail in northeastern Minnesota to include existing hiking trails along Lake Superior's north shore and in Superior National Forest and Chippewa National Forest, and for other purposes.

S. 614

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) were added as cosponsors of S. 614, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the Women Airforce Service Pilots ("WASP").

S. 645

At the request of Mr. THUNE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 645, a bill to amend title 32, United States Code, to modify the Department of Defense share of expenses under the National Guard Youth Challenge Program.

S. 677

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. DEMINT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 677, a bill to amend title

XVIII of the Social Security Act to require wealthy beneficiaries to pay a greater share of their premiums under the Medicare prescription drug program.

S. 738

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) were added as cosponsors of S. 738, a bill to amend the Consumer Credit Protection Act to assure meaningful disclosures of the terms of rental-purchase agreements, including disclosures of all costs to consumers under such agreements, to provide certain substantive rights to consumers under such agreements, and for other purposes.

S. 812

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 812, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the special rule for contributions of qualified conservation contributions.

S. 827

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNIS) were added as cosponsors of S. 827, a bill to establish a program to reunite bondholders with matured unredeemed United States savings bonds.

S. 846

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) were added as cosponsors of S. 846, a bill to award a congressional gold medal to Dr. Muhammad Yunus, in recognition of his contributions to the fight against global poverty.

S. CON. RES. 18

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 18, a concurrent resolution supporting the goals and ideals of World Malaria Day, and reaffirming United States leadership and support for efforts to combat malaria.

AMENDMENT NO. 1007

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1007 proposed to S. 386, a bill to improve enforcement of mortgage fraud, securities fraud, financial institution fraud, and other frauds related to federal assistance and relief programs, for the recovery of funds lost to these frauds, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 897. A bill to limit Federal spending to 20 percent of GDP; to the Committee on the Budget.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Limitation On Government Spending Act of 2009. This legislation will set limits on the amount of Government spending in comparison to the Nation's gross domestic product.

Abraham Lincoln once said, "You cannot keep out of trouble by spending more than you earn." While we remain in an economic recession, the Obama administration continues to spend our way out of it, disregarding the future consequences.

As we continue on this route of reckless government spending, we continue to increase our debt that will be passed down to our children, grandchildren, and many generations to come. The only way to repay this debt is to increase taxes. That is why I believe it is so important that we restrict ourselves from spending too much, especially during this economic recession.

At a time when Utahns and Americans are tightening their wallets, this budget grows the size of Government, excluding nondefense-related spending in just 2 years by 22 percent.

Many Americans, as demonstrated last week through TEA parties, are asking if this Government spending will ever stop. After trillions for bailouts and other Government spending, this budget makes no hard choices to reform runaway spending.

I keep hearing my friends on the other side of the aisle eagerly point out that President Bush never vetoed a spending bill. While I may agree that the former President should have restricted more in Government spending, President Obama's budget spends more than President Bush's did every year, even after adjusting for inflation.

Furthermore, the spending in this budget is so massive that independent estimates suggest roughly 250,000 new Government bureaucrats may be needed to spend it all. While President Obama would like to claim this as job growth, I think this is a false sense of economic recovery. Long after our economy has hopefully recovered, we will need to continue financing these new 250,000 new Government bureaucrats through, you guessed it, more Government spending.

My Republican colleagues want to work with the President to improve the economy. This should be done by focusing on the issues that are hurting Americans the most. Fixing housing, reforming financial markets, developing clean energy and providing affordable health care are all common goals that both sides of the aisle share. But President Obama's European-style approach to achieve these goals is to socialize America—to spend, spend, spend and not worry about the enormous price tag it will leave.

If you look at the proposed budget, you can see the reckless spending. This budget increases discretionary spend-

ing by \$490 billion over 5 years, and it promises much more spending than that—\$1.3 trillion over 5 years—through 27 reserve funds. The total spending in this budget is \$3.9 trillion in 2009, or 28 percent of GDP, the highest level as a share of the GDP since World War II. This is absurd.

How can we tell the American public, who are budgeting themselves and making sacrifices, that we are going to spend our way out of this, then come back to them and tax them until they are back in the same position? It is ludicrous.

We are moving toward what I call the Europeanization of America. To understand what I mean, it is helpful to compare European countries' total government spending as a percentage of GDP with our Nation's Government spending. In France, for example, government spending is close to 50 percent of GDP. England's government spending is roughly 44 percent of GDP. In Germany, government spending is 45 percent of GDP. In the US Federal Government spending has been around 20 percent. However, to accurately compare the US to European nations, it is necessary to include state and local spending. Once that is factored in, US Government spending exceeds 37 percent of GDP, and that is before President Obama's stimulus package and budget for this year are taken into account. Thus, it is almost a forgone conclusion that by the end of this year, total government spending in the US will be in line with most European governments. Do we really want to move toward this Europeanization of America?

Despite what you may hear, trivial attempts to cutback will not make an impact on Government spending. This past week, President Obama admirably asked his administration to trim \$100 million in Government spending. While this amount would be significant a century ago, it doesn't do much today to reduce government spending. This cut would amount to just 1/400 of 1 percent of total Federal spending for fiscal year 2009. The Federal Government spends \$100 million about every 13 minutes. So, while President Obama's restraint on Government spending is admirable, it is just a drop in the bucket for what we really need to achieve.

It is time for us to take a stand on Government spending. We need to show self-discipline when dealing with Government spending. Since World War II, Federal spending has been between 18 and 22 percent of GDP. I am calling upon my colleagues to restrict Government spending to the historical average of 20 percent. This limitation may be waived by an approval of 3/5 of members of this body.

It is time that we restrict government spending. It will cause us to make some tough decisions about what is really important. One thing is certain, we cannot continue down the path we are headed. We owe it to our children and grandchildren to change